Resolution 7: Dependable and Inclusive Supply of Pharmaceutical and Essential Non-Prescription Supplies

Abstract: This resolution supports the creation of a pilot program through Cornell Health’s pharmacy for multi-unit vending machines carrying essential no-prescription medicine including emergency contraceptive to increase health accessibility and health equity on campus.

Sponsored by: Kate Carter-Cram, Michelle Heeney, Josh Washington, Planned Parenthood Generation Action at Cornell, et al.

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 02/09/2023

Whereas, Cornell University has long been a pioneer in advancing women’s educational opportunities, admitting its first female student in 1870, a mere five years after the University’s founding and nearly a century before some of our Ivy League peers like Dartmouth, Yale, and Columbia;

Whereas, Cornell University has also historically been a trailblazer in the study of women’s issues and gender justice, celebrating the 50th anniversary of its Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department last academic year and proudly being the first school in the Ivy League to establish such a program;

Whereas, with the US Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson’s Women’s Health Organization last year, reproductive rights and reproductive health access have been placed in greater jeopardy nationwide, with many Cornell community members feeling that the need for safe and secure access to contraceptives has increased;

Whereas, unplanned and unexpected pregnancy can place a significant burden on students’ lives, and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy published a study finding as high as 61 percent of pregnant female students dropped out of their academic program¹;

Whereas, given the recent legislative action and judicial rulings throughout the United States, this moment necessitates bold and decisive action to preserve reproductive health access at all levels, in all communities, for all people, without shame, danger, fear, or inequities;

¹ https://www.communitycollegereview.com/blog/is-contraception-the-answer-for-college-completion-rates#:~:text=According%20to%20a%20report%20by%20an%20up%20finishing%20their%20degrees
Whereas, equal access to essential healthcare products and services, such as over-the-counter medicines (non-prescription), is a fundamental right of all students regardless of circumstance, identity, or physical location;

Whereas, Cornell Health has served as a beacon in an otherwise isolated region for students to be treated for various concerns regardless of socioeconomic status, gender identity, expression, race, and other demographic factors;

Whereas, many residents of the Cornell community live far from the Cornell Health pharmacy on Ho Plaza, with a walk from Robert Purcell Community Center on North Campus taking approximately 20 minutes both ways and a walk from the Vet School on East Campus taking approximately 25 minutes both ways;

Whereas, the Cornell Health pharmacy operates under 50 hours a week, limited to only common business hours six days a week;

Whereas, the medical needs of our community members do not cease with the conclusion of the business day;

Whereas, the nearest retailers to Cornell’s campus for Plan B One-Step (name brand) are CVS Pharmacy, Walgreens, and Target, all of which are more than a 30-minute walk away one way from central campus;

Whereas, over-the-counter medications, including contraceptives, frequently force students to incur large purchasing costs as well as often travel costs paid in time, money, and health in order to find such medication in proximity to Cornell’s campus;

Whereas, Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA), an undergraduate student organization registered with Cornell University Campus Groups (also affiliated with Planned Parenthood), conducted independent research over the last semester on interests and engagement around an emergency contraceptive vending machine that would “discreetly”, and “accessibly” offer Plan B, with all research referenced included voluntarily in Appendix A;

Whereas, PPGA’s Fall 2022 research used a Qualtrics survey with over seven hundred (700) voluntary respondents across the Cornell Community;

Whereas, the survey conducted among Cornell University students revealed a significant need for emergency contraception access on campus, with 53.3% respondents answering that they have accessed emergency contraception for themselves or others in the past and an

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2 Google Maps
3 https://health.cornell.edu/get-care/hours
4 https://www.planbonestep.com/where-to-buy-plan-b/
5 Google Maps
6 Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research
7 Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research
overwhelming 86.8% of respondents answering that they “strongly agree” that they will need to
access emergency contraceptives in the future⁸;

Whereas, current access to emergency contraception on campus is limited due to pharmacy
operating hours, with only 16.9% of respondents accessing contraceptives through Cornell
Health and the majority of respondents, 45.5%, being forced to rely on off-campus pharmacies
that offer less affordable and potentially cost-prohibitive options⁹;

Whereas, PPGA’s survey shows a high demand for the expansion of campus-based access to
emergency contraception, with 66.5% of respondents feeling “very comfortable” accessing
contraceptives from a vending machine operated by Cornell Health¹⁰;

Whereas, this model has proven successful across other universities with Shippensburg
University in Pennsylvania became the first colleges in the United States to provide students with
equal access to contraceptives in a vending machine format in 2012¹¹;

Whereas, the Purdue University pharmacy funds and supplies a vending machine that dispenses
common and basic over-the-counter medications such as pain relief, fever reducers, allergy
relief, cold/cough/flu medicine, gastrointestinal medicine, as well as contraceptives and other
sexual wellness products¹²;

Whereas, peer institutions, including University of California Davis¹³, Boston University¹⁴,
University of Florida¹⁵, George Washington University¹⁶, Brandeis University¹⁷, and many
more¹⁸, have already launched similar programs in their respective campus vending machines
across the country, including in states with varying reproductive healthcare access;

Whereas, Ivy League peer institutes like Dartmouth¹⁹, Yale²⁰, and Columbia²¹ who once
followed Cornell’s leadership on issues of gender justice, all of whom were nearly a century

⁸ Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research
⁹ Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research
¹⁰ Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research
¹² https://www.purdue.edu/rx/faq.php
¹⁸ https://students.dartmouth.edu/health-service/pharmacy/vending-pharmacy-dicks-house
²⁰ https://columbiachronicle.com/437d6c6-35ae-5c4d-4-ab1b-09645ba3a1ae
behind Cornell in admitting non-male students\textsuperscript{22}, have now outpaced our campus on reproductive healthcare access;

\textbf{Whereas}, Cornell has existing business relations with multiple vending machine firms with operation in the Ithaca area, specifically having “nearly 300 vending machines throughout campus” and “in off-campus Cornell facilities in the Ithaca area”\textsuperscript{23};

\textbf{Whereas}, Cornell University installed twelve (12) Vengo vending machines in 2017 in locations such as Robert Purcell Community Center and Appel Commons that possess the capabilities to dispense items such as Advil and other OTC medications\textsuperscript{24};

\textbf{Whereas}, Stanford University specifically employs a similar machine made by Vengo Labs that provides students with twenty-four (24) access to emergency contraception and other sexual wellness products\textsuperscript{25};

\textbf{Whereas}, Cornell Health’s pharmacy already sells “Progestin-only emergency contraception such as Plan B [generic], Plan B One Step, Next Choice, and Levonorgestrel Tablets... without a prescription”\textsuperscript{26};

\textbf{Whereas}, generic brand Plan B is currently offered at the Cornell Health pharmacy for only $10 (ten dollars), nearly five (5) times less than the average price of $40-50 for a single-dose pill of many name brands of Plan B One-Step at local major pharmacies, therefore, the installation of the medicine in such machines is unlikely to pose significant additional burden to the institution\textsuperscript{27};

\textbf{Whereas}, providing readily available over-the-counter medications through vending machines will ensure that all students have immediate, private, and equitable access to essential healthcare products regardless of schedules or commitments, reducing barriers to access for students who face difficulties obtaining such medicines due to factors like limited access to transportation and store hours, and ensuring that they have the autonomy to control their own healthcare decisions;

\textbf{Be it therefore resolved}, that the Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly believes it is necessary for Cornell Health to equitably expand access to over-the-counter non-prescription

\textsuperscript{22}https://rmc.library.cornell.edu/cornell150/exhibition/sexcolor/index.html#:~:text=In%20the%20fall%20of%201871,officially%20voted%20to%20admit%20women
\textsuperscript{23}https://scl.cornell.edu/residential-life/dining/eateries-menus/vending-machines
\textsuperscript{24}https://cornellsun.com/2017/03/07/partnership-between-vengo-labs-and-the-cornell-store-brings-new-vending-machines-around-campus/
\textsuperscript{25}https://www.theverge.com/2019/2/11/18216209/contraception-campus-vending-machines-day-after-pill-plan-b
\textsuperscript{26}https://health.cornell.edu/resources/health-topics/sexual-health-relationships#:~:text=Available%20without%20a%20prescription%3A,Health%20pharmacy%20without%20a%20prescription
\textsuperscript{27}https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/morning-after-pill-emergency-contraception/whats-plan-b-morning-after-pill#:~:text=How%20Much%20Does%20Plan%20B,online%20for%20%2420%20%245%20shipping
drugs and emergency contraceptives that support the overall health and wellbeing of all community members;

**Be it further resolved**, Cornell Health should follow the growing movement\(^{28}\) of accessible emergency contraceptive and other over-the-counter non-prescription drugs in twenty-four (24) hour accessible vending machines that include products ranging from pain and fever relief, stomach illness relief, and other relevant over-the-counter medication like our peer institutions\(^{29}\);

**Be it further resolved**, the vending machines should be placed in places that are public yet still discrete enough to protect the user’s privacy and priced at rates that closely mirror those of the in-person Cornell Health pharmacy;

**Be it further resolved**, Cornell Health should include relevant accompanying educational material around seasonal illness health, health promotion, mental health, sexual health (including but not limited to information on STD prevention, birth control, reproductive health and the subsequent available resources on reproductive right both inside Cornell Health and around the Ithaca area) with vending machines to support campus wide health promotion;

**Be it further resolved**, the co-signed hope that the Cornell University Assemblies and Shared Governance system, in accordance with their receptive charted responsibilities as entrusted by the Cornell community, Board of Trustees, and University President will be able to stay in an advisory and community based accountability role to continue to support Cornell Health and the Cornell Health pharmacy in overseeing this major university policy initiative and supporting the Cornell community’s wellbeing on this issue of health access, health equity, reproductive rights, and reproductive health;

**Be it finally resolved**, that Cornell Health and the Cornell Central Administration recognize the hard work organizing and advocating for this issue by Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA) and other student organizations stakeholders through this pilot program, ensuring that emergency contraceptive and other reproductive rights educational material are always included;

_Respectfully Submitted,_

Kate Carter-Cram
President

Michelle Heeney
Vice President of Communications

Josh Washington
Executive Vice President


\(^{29}\) Appendix B – Peer Institution Vending Machine Offerings
140  Planned Parenthood Generation Action at Cornell
141  Cornell Women’s Health Initiative
142  The Advocacy Project
143  Student Organ Donation Advocates
144  People’s Organized Collective (POCC)
145  The Gender Justice Advocacy Coalition
146  Cornell Progressives
147  Pelvic Pain Association at Cornell
Appendix A – PPGA Qualtrics Survey Research

Q1 – I am a ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Choice Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cornell undergraduate student</td>
<td>87.76% 624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cornell graduate and/or professional student</td>
<td>3.80% 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cornell staff member</td>
<td>1.13% 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cornell faculty member</td>
<td>0.42% 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>non-Cornell Ithaca resident</td>
<td>1.41% 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5.49% 39</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Q2 - Have you ever accessed emergency contraception for yourself or another person?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Choice Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>53.34% 319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>46.66% 279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q3 – [omitted for relevance]
Q4 - I accessed emergency contraception, for myself or someone else, at ...

Q5 - I would consider accessing emergency contraception for myself or another person in the future.
Q6 - How comfortable would you feel accessing emergency contraception, for yourself or someone else, from a campus vending machine operated by Cornell Health?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Choice Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Very comfortable</td>
<td>66.48% 357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Somewhat comfortable</td>
<td>23.84% 128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable</td>
<td>2.42% 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Somewhat uncomfortable</td>
<td>3.91% 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Very uncomfortable</td>
<td>3.35% 18</td>
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</table>

537
### Appendix B – Peer Institution Vending Machine Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication</th>
<th>Purdue University</th>
<th>Johns Hopkins University</th>
<th>University of California, Davis</th>
<th>Dartmouth College</th>
<th>George Washington University</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contraceptives/Sexual Wellness:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Contraceptive (Plan B)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Condoms</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pregnancy Tests</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tampons</td>
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<td><strong>Pain/Fever:</strong></td>
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<td>Ibuprofen (Advil)</td>
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<td>Acetaminophen (Tylenol)</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Naproxen (Aleve)</td>
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<td><strong>Allergy/Cold/Cough/Flu:</strong></td>
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<td>Loratadine (Claritin)</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banophen (Benadryl)</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Oxymetazoline (Afrin)</td>
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<td>Cough Drops</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td><strong>Stomach Symptoms:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bismuth Subsalicylate (Pepto-Bismol)</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calcium Carbonate (TUMS)</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimenhydrinate (Dramamine)</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Others:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eye Drops (Visine)</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ear Drops</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bacitracin Zinc (Neosporin)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melatonin</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terbinafine (Athlete's Foot Cream)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydrocortisone Cream</td>
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<td>X</td>
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